REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made"**.

Please charge any fees payable in connection with this Pre-Examination Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please substitute page 8, line 24 - page 9, line 9, as follows:

In the drawings, wherein like reference numerals denote like or corresponding parts throughout the drawing figures, and particularly in the embodiments in accordance with the invention as shown in FIGS. 1-10, for example, a system 10 is provided for enabling an interventional procedure to be performed in a blood vessel 12 at an area of treatment 14. The system 10 is atraumatic, to inhibit injury to the patient. It includes a guide wire 16 which enables the system 10 to be positioned distal to the area of treatment 14. The system 10 is placed within the carotid artery 18 or other blood vessel of the patient, and is guided into position by the guide wire 16. The guide wire 16 includes a tip coil 20 at a distal end 22 thereof. The tip coil includes a proximal end 24. The tip coil 20 is attached at the proximal end thereof to the guide wire 16 for example by solder. The carotid artery 18 has the area of treatment 14 therein, which comprises the interventional procedure site, wherein atherosclerotic plaque 26 has built up against the inside wall 28, which decreases the diameter of the carotid artery 18. As a result, blood flow is diminished through this area.

Please substitute page 11, line 28 - page 12, line 10, as follows:

The system 10 further includes a delivery enabling element 82, which bears against the compressed filter device 30 for enabling delivery thereof to the position distal to the interventional procedure site 14, without extending about the filter device 30. The delivery enabling element 82 is also able to be withdrawn from bearing against the filter device 30. The delivery enabling element 82 includes an inner tube 84, which is extendable about the guide wire 16, and which includes a distal end 86 which is extendable into the filter device 30, through the channel 64 in the proximal portion 34 thereof, so as to bear against the compressing element 38. The inner tube 84 also pushes the tab members 74 radially outwardly and into engagement therewith upon extending through the channel 64. The delivery enabling element 82 also includes an outer tube 88, extendable about the inner tube 84, which bears against the proximal portion 34 of the filter device 30 for delivery thereof.

Please substitute page 14, lines 8-17, as follows:

In the first version of the first embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIGS. 1-5, the slots 80 in the engaging element 70 are engaged with the tab members 74 of the engageable element 68, to compress the filter device 30. An assembly of the compressed filter device 30 is inserted for example over the proximal

end of the guide wire 16 extending outside the patient. The compressed filter device 30 is advanced over the proximal end of the guide wire 16 into the patient's body and [tip coil 20,] onto the distal end 22 of the guide wire 16. The distal end 86 of the inner tube 84 of the delivery enabling element 82 is extended through the channel 64 in the proximal portion 34 of the filter device 30 so as to bear against the engaging element 70, to retain the filter device 30 in the compressed condition thereof. The outer tube 88 of the delivery enabling element 82 bears against the proximal portion 34 of the filter device 30 for enabling delivery of the filter device 30 to the location for deployment thereof. Delivery systems may be configured in over the wire or rapid exchange delivery platforms.

Please substitute page 14, lines 18-27, as follows:

Upon reaching the location distal to the interventional procedure site 14, the distal end 86 of the inner tube 84 is pulled in the proximal direction away from its position bearing against the engaging element 70, to a position for example extending slightly distal of the tabs 66, leaving a space between the distal end 86 of the inner tube 84 and the engaging element 70. The guide wire 16 is then pulled in the proximal direction, pulling the stop member 72 into engagement with the engaging element 70. Upon pulling the guide wire 16 further in the proximal direction, the tab members 74 of the engageable element 68 slide out of the slot 80 in the engaging member 70,

releasing the tab members 74 from the slots 80 so as to enable expansion and deployment of the filter device 30. Alternatively, for example, a slightly larger tip coil 20 may be used to push the engaging element 70 and deploy the filter device 30.

Please substitute page 14, line 28 - page 15, line 8, as follows:

The slots 90 of the inner tube 84, in the second version of the first embodiment of the invention, as depicted in FIGS. 6-8, engage the tab members 94 of the engageable element 68, to compress the filter device 30, and to retain the filter device 30 in the compressed condition during delivery. The outer tube 88 bears against the proximal portion 34 of the filter device 30 for enabling delivery of the filter device to the deployment location thereof. The distal end 86 of the inner tube 84 is pulled in the proximal direction, away from engagement with the engageable element 68, upon reaching the position distal to [he] the interventional procedure site 14, for releasing the tab members 74 from the slots 80, and the tabs 66 engage the guide wire 16, for [and] enabling expansion and deployment of the filter device 30.

Please substitute page 15, lines 9-27, as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. 9-10, in the second embodiment of the present invention, an assembly of the filter device 30 and the obturator 40 is inserted for

example over the proximal end of the guide wire 16 up [tip coil 20,] to the position where the tabs 66 snap-fit into the space 100 so as to bear against the stop 98. The spring 92 is expanded, and the struts 102 of the filter device 30 engage the distal section 106 of the engageable element 68. The guide wire 16 is then pushed through the patient's vasculature 12, with the filter device 30 in compressed low profile condition, until the distal end 22 of the guide wire 16 reaches the position distal to the interventional procedure site 14. The balloon catheter 70 is then inserted over the guide wire 16 and through the patient's vasculature 14 until it engages the proximal section 108 of the engageable element 68. Upon pushing the balloon catheter 70 further in the distal direction, the proximal section 108 of the engageable element 68 moves distally into the distal section 106 thereof which is secured to the guide wire 16, causing the struts 102 of the filter device 30 to move radially outwardly along the guiding portion 110 of the proximal section 108. Upon sufficient radially-outward movement of the struts 102 along the guiding surface 110 of the proximal section 108 of the engageable element 68, the struts release from engagement with the distal section 106, releasing the filter device 30 from engagement therewith, and enabling the spring 92 to compress, resulting in expansion and deployment of the filter device 30 for capturing embolic material 32.